under National Family Welfare Programme and this amount generally reaches late to State Governments; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM) : (a) and (b) Funds to the State Governments are normally released in four quarterly advance instalments and as such there is no question of late receipt of funds by the States.

Facilities for Mentally Retarded Persons

†4323. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) The number of hospitals for mental diseases in India, together with the number of patients to whom beds can be provided; and

(b) whether this is sufficient; if not, to what extent Government are serious for treatment of these mentally retarded persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM) : (a) and (b) There are 45 hospitals for mental diseases in India having over 20,000 beds. All persons suffering from mental diseases do not require admission or treatment in Mental Hospital. Most of the patients suffering from minor psychiatric problems like neurosis, adjustment reactions and psychosomatic disorders can be easily treated and managed by Physicians, Neurologists and other disciplines of medicines. To provide better provision of mental health services by developing community based mental health services integrated with existing primary health care services, a District Mental Health Programme has been launched by the Government under the National Mental Health Programme in 1996-97 and it is being implemented presently in 22 districts spread over 20 States in the country. Hence, the number of beds presently available is sufficient for the treatment of patients suffering from mental diseases. Patients suffering from mental disease are different from mentally retarded persons and for their management, vocational training centres are being run by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.